

# CLINICAL HIGHLIGHT—ROBOTIC SURGERY

Robot-assisted surgery involves a platform consisting of a high-definition 3D camera and mechanical arms controlled by the surgeon from a nearby console. Surgeons who use this system note enhanced visualization, precision, dexterity and ergonomics. Since its FDA approval in 2000, over 6 million procedures have been performed around the world. Within the Department of Surgery, robotic surgery is performed at three sites of practice – UW Medical Center (UWMC) Montlake Campus, UWMC Northwest Campus, and VA Puget Sound – and across multiple specialties: colorectal surgery, general surgery, hepatopancreatobiliary surgery, and thoracic surgery. Robotic surgery is additionally performed within the Departments of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Urology. The benefits to patients undergoing a robotic surgical procedure are common across all disciplines and include less tissue trauma and blood loss with decreased risk of infectious complications, less pain with decreased narcotic medication needs, shorter length of hospital stay, and a faster return to work and daily activities. Says UW Medicine patient **Diana Davis**, who had robotic surgery to remove her liver cancer, “I walked two miles the day I had my surgery.”

On October 8, 2019, the UWMC Montlake Campus became a Center of Excellence in Robotic Surgery (COERS), making it the first academic medical center on the West Coast to attain this distinction. COERS accreditation is awarded through the Surgical Review Corporation, and requires that a multidisciplinary team of experts ensures top-notch patient care processes, facilities, equipment, staff, and quality and outcomes metrics for robotic surgical procedures. UWMC Montlake was awarded certification in record time thanks to its existing depth and breadth of robotic surgery expertise.

An important requisite of COERS accreditation and the academic mission of UWMC is the education of resident and fellow trainees, and to that end Department of Surgery has recently introduced a training curriculum for General Surgery residents which will make

them eligible for formal robotic surgery credentialing upon graduation. This training endeavor is supported in part by UW Medicine’s WWAMI Institute of Simulation in Healthcare, and dedicated robotic training for the residents outside of clinical cases will be an important focus for future philanthropic efforts.

The Department would like to extend special thanks and recognition to the individuals who put significant time and effort into the certification process: Dr. **James Park**, Surgeon Champion and lead for this initiative; Carla Brannen, Assistant Administrator of Perioperative Services; Sherri Del Bene, Assistant Administrator, UW Medicine; Fatima Obaob, Urology/Robotic Surgery RN3; Natalie Shiflett, UWMC OR Nurse Manager; Amy Haverland, 5E ICU Nurse Manager; Irene Krall, 7SA Nurse Manager; Stacy Nagy, Program Operations Specialist for HPB Surgery; and Esmeralda Pulido, Director of Project Management Office. Additional thanks goes to UWMC Executive Leadership for their support: Cindy Hecker, Chief Executive Officer; Geoff Austin, Chief Operating Officer; and Dr. John Lang, Clinical Director of Operative and Perioperative Operations, as well as other administrative and nursing staff too numerous to name.



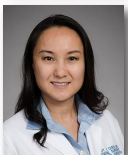
UW Receives COERS Accreditation Left-to-right: Amy Haverland, Sherri Del Bene, Natalie Shiflett, Fatima Obaob, Carla Brannen, Dr. James Park, Irene Krall, Stacy Nagy, Esmeralda Pulido, Dr. John Lang, Geoff Austin

## DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY—IN THE MEDIA



Dr. **Eileen Bulger**, Professor and Chief of Trauma, Division of Trauma, Burn & Critical Care Surgery  
American College of Surgeons | Bulletin

[“A comprehensive approach to firearm injury prevention: ACS Committee on Trauma hosts historic summit”](#)



Dr. **Judy Chen**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery  
UW Medicine | Right as Rain | October, 10, 2019

[“Is BMI Accurate – and What Does It Really Say About Your Health?”](#)



Dr. **Meghan Flanagan**, Assistant Professor, Division of General Surgery  
UW Medicine | Right as Rain | October 3, 2019

[“What to Expect During Your Breast Biopsy”](#)